



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Pain Awareness Month

WHEREAS, physical pain affects tens of millions of Americans and untreated or inadequately treated pain can harm quality of life by diminishing the ability to function, socialize and be productive; and

WHEREAS, despite this prevalence, access to appropriate and effective pain care remains a barrier for many Americans due to limited access to health care systems, appropriately trained pain specialists, prescribed pain treatments, or sites of care or pharmacies, as well as negative stereotypes about pain; and

WHEREAS, pain takes an economic toll on our country, at great cost each year in medical expenses, lost wages, reduced productivity and other costs; and

WHEREAS, improved pain management education and an effective multi-disciplinary treatment approach can help reduce suffering and remove barriers to pain-free living; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Arthritis Foundation, the United States Pain Foundation, the Arthritis Foundation Center of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island chapter of the American Pain Foundation Action Network and a variety of other professional and consumer organizations exist to advocate for people experiencing pain by increasing awareness and promoting access to appropriate pain treatment for all Rhode Islanders; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim September 2011 Pain Awareness Month and encourage all state residents to recognize the importance of this month.



Given under my hand and the great
seal of the State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations,
this 31st day of August, 2011

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State